

ahontas

8/27/03

Keep Thy heart from fainting and thy soul from sleep, Go to the woods and

n, Pocahontas County, West Virginia August

HENRY MILLER MOFFETT.

A DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN OF POCAHONTAS.

A Life Sketch of Henry M. Moffett and His Family by W. T. Price.

This eminent citizen bore a prominent part in the early organized history of our county as for a time the assistant and then the successor of Josiah Beard as clerk of the county of Pocahontas.

His ancestry is traceable to John Moffett a pioneer of Augusta

county, and the first recorded mention of this ancestor's name is to the effect that on June 24, 1742 he qualified as a Lieutenant of one of the first military companies raised in Augusta county.

John Moffett's wife was Mary Christian and he settled in the vicinity of the old Stone Church. Sometime previously to 1749, John Moffett left home for North Carolina and was never heard of afterwards. His friends rested in the opinion that he was slain by Indians, whereupon Mrs. Mary Moffett February 28, 1749 qualified to administer on the estate, giving bond for 500 pounds, with her brothers William and Robert Christian as securities.

Col. George Moffett eldest son of John Moffett and Mary Christian was born in 1735.

His wife was a sister of Col. Samuel McDowell of Timber Ridge.

Col. Moffett was prominent in the Indian wars and the Revolution. In civil affairs he was justice of the peace, an elder in the Presbyterian church and one of first trustees of Washington College, Lexington, Va. He died in 1811, aged 76 years and was buried in the Augusta church graveyard.

her mother by a sash to keep her from falling off. Mrs. Moffett was in the act of dismounting was injured by the sash, and fatal illness developed and she died unexpectedly, when the new house was nearing completion. Mr. Moffett passed away not long after occupying the new residence one of the most commodious of its kind, near Hillsboro, and the property passed into the possession of the late Col. Paul McNeel. Mrs. Edgar the present lady of the mansion is a daughter of Col. McNeel.

Maggie Beall, Mr. Moffett's step-daughter became the wife of the late Dr. George B. Moffett, his youngest brother. Dr. Moffett's son, Robert, resides in Missouri and the other son James holds an important position in the service of the Standard Oil concern. His oldest daughter Hannah and first son James William died very young at the farm home near Huntersville. Sally Gatewood became the wife of Dr. Alexander McChesney for many years resident Physician Warm Springs, Va. and was a Confederate officer in command of one of the cavalry companies of the Bath squadron. Martha became Mrs. Hall of Barbour County and resides near Philippi, W. Va. Mary Eveline was married to the late Col. William P. Thompson, of New York city. A few years since she died in France, in quest of health. Her remains were brought back to America. These young people casually met at the Curry Spring, near Huntersville, early in the war, and it seems to have been an instance of mutual esteem at first sight. The simple unadorned story of the long wooing that ensued and finally their hurried marriage, when the war was over, would make something

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James McDowell Moffett, father of the Pocahontas clerk, was Col. Geo. Moffett's second son, whose wife was Hanna Miller, daughter of Henry Miller the founder of Miller's Iron Works near Mossy Creek, Va., where most of the iron used by our pioneer blacksmiths was manufactured. Late in the twenties Mr. Moffett came to Pocahontas with his widowed mother and located on the farm near Huntersville at the opposite end of the Bridge. Here he resided some years while performing his official duties. Early in the thirties he married Mrs. Mary Nance Beale, relict of Robert Beale, Esq., who upon Mr. Beale's death had left Elk and lived on her farm near Hillsboro now owned by Frank Harper.

Mrs. Beale was the second daughter of Major William Poage once owner of all of Marlins Bottom, near Marlinton.

Mr. Moffett becoming weary of official life, sold his Huntersville property to the late Hugh McLaughlin, declined re-election to the clerkship, purchased the farm owned by Captain Edgar and settled in the Levels about 1838. James Tallman, his deputy became clerk and served as such very efficiently for several years. The office becoming vacant by Tallman's much lamented death, Mr. Moffett was reappointed clerk and returned to Huntersville about the year 1843 and occupied a residence at the corner of the lot now owned by G. W. Ginger.

This residence was burned while undergoing repairs, soon after it was vacated by Mr. Moffett's return to the Levels, at the expiration of his term of office.

His laudable aim now seemed to be the establishing of an ideal home for his family to whom he was so tenderly attached, where he could pass his last years in the peaceful quiet pursuits of a rural life, removed from the verations and carroding uncertainties of official service.

Mrs. Moffett was injured by a frightened horse as she was returning from a visit to friends near Mill Point one afternoon. She was carrying her infant son

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Rachel the youngest daughter became Mrs. Dr. Robert McChesney, a prominent physician, Lewisburg, W. Va. George Henry, the youngest born of this notable Pocahontas family is so well known to our readers, that we can tell them nothing new. He was a soldier in the Confederate war, and was a prisoner. Studied law, and for some years a prominent member of the Huntersville bar, returned to the West Va. House of Delegates and chosen speaker of that body. He became a distinguished journalist in Wheeling, Minneapolis and Portland, Oregon. At present he occupies an important position as attorney for a railroad system with his office at Parkersburg.

Henry M. Moffett, Esq. was a native of Augusta county, related to the Millers, Christians, McCues and other prominent families of Augusta, Rockingham and Rockbridge and was held in high esteem by his distinguished relatives. While James McDowell Governor of Virginia Mr. Moffett put a drove of his Pocahontas cattle into the Richmond market. The Governor incidentally learning the fact, looked him up, had him for a privileged guest at the executive Mansion, over the Sabbath, took him to church in the morning, led him to his own family pew and sat by him through the services.

Mr. Moffett was crushed by his bereavement and did not survive his wife, but a very few years. He passed away very peacefully having made a good record in the service of his adopted county, that had honored him repeatedly with the best office in her power to confer. His grave is in the old Brick church yard and marked by a neat marble.

R. E. Beall, advertising manager of the American Literary Society, New York, canvassed Marlinton last week.

T. C. Ware the Apiarist of Arbovale was in Marlinton last Monday. He reports the honey crop, as excellent, a few days previously, he had taken 1100 pounds of his own at Valley Head, and 1500 pounds for James Gih-

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